

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## Lesson Guide #1 for *Up Where the Stars Are*

### Concepts

- Empathy
- Compassion
- Friendship



### Objectives

- **DEVELOP EMPATHY.** By experiencing a story about a child who's different from them, students will better understand, appreciate, and respect that child's point of view.
- **LEARN COMPASSION.** By discussing and celebrating their similarities with and differences from other children, students will develop more concern for the well-being of others.
- **ENHANCE FRIENDSHIPS.** By learning empathy and compassion, students will be better equipped to build meaningful friendships with others. Our school is a better place when we are all friends.

### Classroom Discussion

1. What did you learn about Andrew in the story? Did you learn that from the text or from the illustrations?
2. In what ways are you similar to Andrew? In what ways are you different?
3. Did you like Andrew? Would you want to be his friend? Why?
4. What special gifts did Andrew share with others? How did those gifts help?
5. What special gifts do you have to share? How do your gifts help others?
6. Name some ways in which people might be similar. Name some ways in which people might be different. Is it okay to be different? How would a classmate feel if they were teased because of their differences?
7. What are the traits of a good friend? If Andrew were a classmate, how would you be a good friend to him?
8. Everyone wants to feel like they belong and are accepted. How will you help your classmates feel included?

### Student Activity

Students can work in pairs. Have them discuss their similarities and their differences using the Venn diagram that follows. (There is a full-color and a black-and-white option.)

# ARE WE THE SAME? ARE WE DIFFERENT?

Choose a circle. Write words about yourself in your circle. If a word is true for both of you, write it in the middle, where your circles overlap. (For example, if you both like reading, write "reading" in the middle section.)



How am I different?

How am I different?

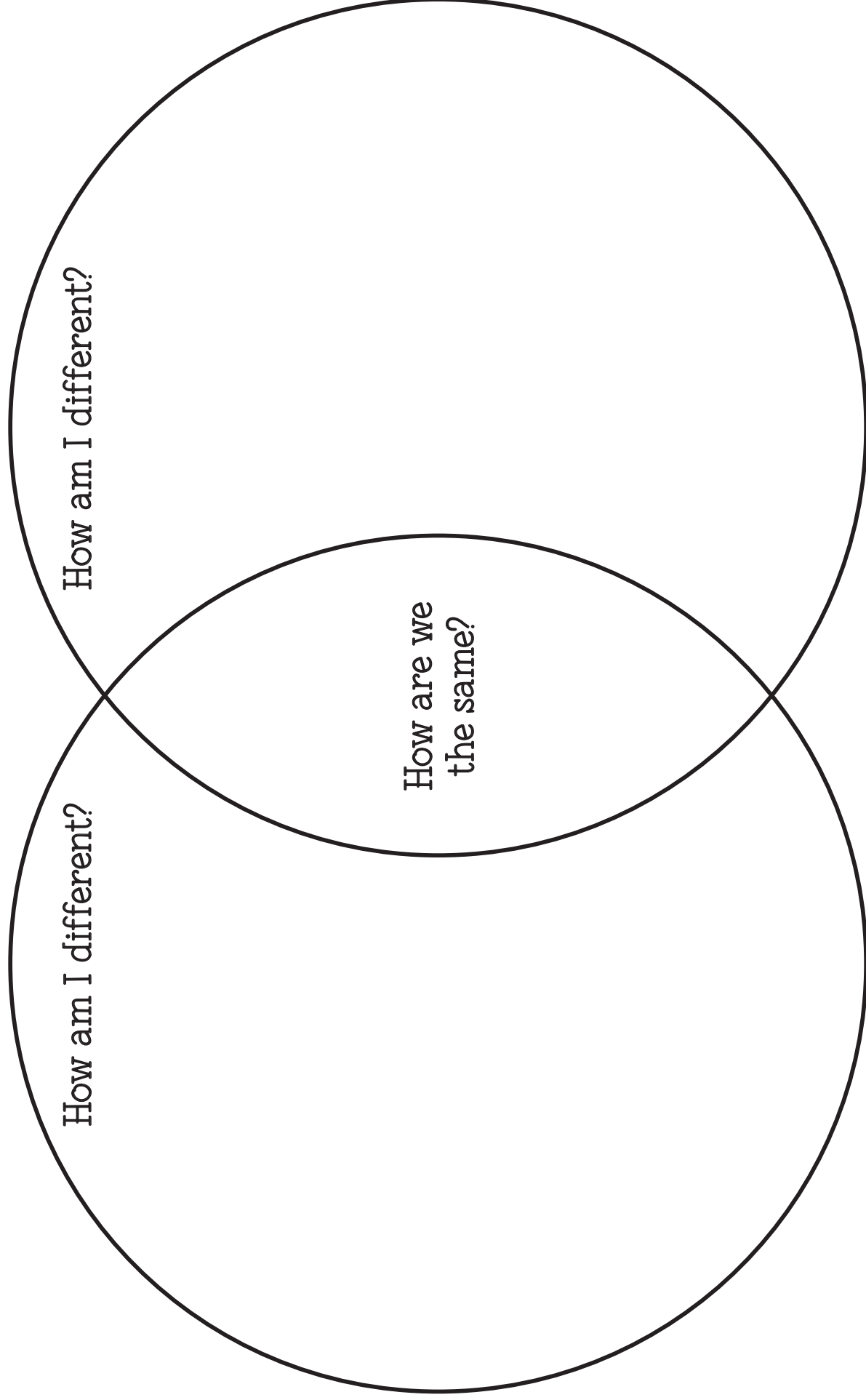
How are we  
the same?



Write your name at the bottom of your circle.

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